

HIS
MAJESTIES
ANSWER,

To a Booke, intituled,
The Declaration, or Remon-
strance of the Lords and Com-
mons, of the 19. of May.

1642.



Imprinted at Yorke, and reprinted at London, for R.
Lodges, & H. Tuckey, 1642.

IF We could be weary of taking any paines for the satisfaction of Our People, and to undeceive them of those specious mischievous Insuſions, which are daily inſtilled into them, to ſhake and corrupt their loyalty and affection to Us and Our Government, after ſo full and ample Declaration of our Selfe and Intentions, and ſo faire and ſatisfactory answers to all ſuch matters as have bene objected to Us, by a major part preſent of both Houſes of Parliament, We might well give over this labour of our Pen, and ſit ſtill, till it ſhall pleaſe God ſo to enlighten the Affections and Underſtandings of Our good Subjects on Our behalfe (which We doubt not but that in his good time he will doe) that they may ſee our ſufferings are their ſufferings. But, ſince inſtead of applying themſelves to the Method propoſed by Us, of making ſuch ſolid particular Propositions as might eſtabliſh a good Underſtanding betweene Us, or of following the advice of our Councell of Scotland (with whom they communicate their affairs) in forbearing all meanes that may make the breach wider and wound deeper, they have choſen to purſue Us with new Reproaches, or rather to continue and improve the old, by adding and varying little Circumſtances, and Language, in many matters formerly urged by them, and fully answered by Us, We prevailed with Our Selfe, upon very mature and particular conſideration of it; to answer the late Printed Booke, intituled, *A Declaration or Remonſtrance of the Lords and Commons*, which was Ordered the nineteenth of May laſt, to be Printed and publiſhed, hoping then that they would put Us to no more of this trouble, but that that ſhould have bene the laſt of ſuch a nature they would have communicated to Our People, and that they would not, as they have done ſince, thought fit to aſſault us with a Newer Declaration, indeed of a very new Nature and Learning, which muſt have another Answer. And We doubt not but that Our good Subjects, in ſhort time, will be ſo well inſtructed in the differences, and miſtakings betweene Us, that they will plainly diſcerne, without reſigning their reaſon and underſtanding to Our Prerogative, or the inſallibility of a now major part of both Houſes of Parliament (infected by a few malignant ſpiries) where the fault is.

Though We shal with humility and alacrity be alwayes forward to acknowledge the infinite Mercy and Providence of Almighty God, vouchsafed so many severall wayes to Our Selfe and this Nation, yet since God himselve doth

doth not allow, that we should fancy and create dangers to our Selfe, that We might manifest and publish his Mercy in our deliverance, We must professe We doe not know those deliverances mentioned in the beginning of that Declaration, from so many wicked Plots and Designes since the beginning of this Parliament, which, if they had taken effect, would have brought ruine and destruction upon this Kingdome. We well know the great labour and skill hath beene used to amate and afright Our good Subjects with feares, and apprehensions of Plots and Conspiracies, the severall Pamphlets published, and Letters scattered up and downe full of such ridiculous contemptible, Animadversions to that purpose, as (though they sound, for what end God knowes, very unusuall countenance) no sober man would be moved with them. But We must confesse, We have never beene able to informe Our Selfe of any such pernicious formed Designe against the Peace of this Kingdome, since the beginning of this Parliament, as is mentioned in that Declaration, or might be any warrant to those great Feares both Our Houses of Parliament, and to be transported with, but We have great cause to beleieve more mischief and danger hath beene raised and begotten to the disturbance of this Kingdome, then cured or prevented by those Feares and Iealousies: And therefore howe ever the rumour and discourse of Plots and Conspiracies may have beene necessary to the designes of particular men, they shall doe well not to pay any false devotions to Almighty God, who discernes whether Our dangers are real or pretended.

For the bringing up of the Army to *London*, as We have heretofore (by no other direction then the testimony of a good conscience) called God to witness We never had, or know of any such Resolution, so upon the view of the Depositions now published with that Declaration, it is not evident to Us there was ever such a Designe, unlesse very loose Discourse or Argument be instance enough of such a Designe: And it is apparent, that what was said of it, was neere three moneths before the discovery to both Houses of Parliament, so that if there were any danger threatned that way, it vanished without any resistance or prevention, by the Wisdom, Power, or Authority of them.

It seemes the intention of that Declaration (whatsoever other end it hath) is to Answer a Declaration they received from Us, in Answer to that which was presented to Us at *New-market*, the ninth of *March* last; and likewise to Our Answer to the Petition of both Houses, presented to Us at *York*, the twenty sixt of *March* last. But before that Declaration falls upon any particulars of Our said Declaration or Answer, it complaines, That the heads of the Malignant Party have with much Art and Industry advised Us to suffer divers unjust scandalls and Imputations upon the Parliament, to be published in our Name; whereby they might make it odious to the People, and by their helpe destroy it: But not instancing in any one Scandall or imputation so published by Us, We are still to seeke for the Heads of that Malignant Party. But Our good Subjects will easily understand, That if We were guilty of that Asper-

tion, We must not onely be active in raising the scandall, but passive in the Mischief begotten by that Scandall, We being an essentiall part of the Parliament: and We hope the just defence of Our Selves, and Our Authority, and the necessary vindication of Our Innocence and Justice, from the Imputation laid on Us by a major part, then present, of either, or both Houses, shall no more be called a scandall upon the Parliament, then the opinion of such a part be reputed an Act of Parliament: And We hope Our good Subj^{ts} will not be long misled by that common expression in all the Declarations (wherein they usurpe the word Parliament, and apply it to countenance any Resolution or Vote.) Some few have a minde to make, by calling it, *The Resolution of Parliament*, which can never be without Our consent; Neither can the Vote of either, or both Houses, make a greater alteration in the Lawes of this Kingdome (so solemnly made by the advice of their Predecessours, with the concurrence of Us and Our Ancestours) either by commanding or inhibiting any thing (besides the knowne Rule of the Law) then Our single Direction or Mandate can doe, to which We doe not ascribe the Authority.

But that Declaration informs Our People that the Malignant party hath drawne Us into the Northerne parts farre from Our Parliament. It might more truly and properly have said, That it hath driven, then drawne Us hither. For We confesse, Our journey hither (for which We have no other reason to be sorry, then with reference to the cause of it) was onely forced upon Us by the true Malignant Party which contrived and countenanced those barbarous Tumults and other seditious Circumstances of which We have so often complained, and hereafter shall say more, and which indeed threatens so much danger to our Person, and laid so much scandall upon the whole Priviledge and Dignity of Parliament, that We wonder it can be mentioned without Blushes or Indignation: But of that anon. But why the Malignant Party should be charged with causing a Presse to be transported to *York*, We cannot imagine, neither have any Papers or Writings issued from thence to Our knowledge, but what have beene extorted from Us by such provocations as have not beene before offered to a King. And no doubt it will appeare a most triviall and fond Exception; when all Presses are open to vent whatsoever they thinke fit to say to the people, (a thing unwarranted by former custome) that We should not make use of all lawfull meanes to publish Our just and necessary Answers therunto. As for the Authority of the great Seale (though We doe not know that it hath beene necessary to things of this nature) the same shall be more frequently used hereafter, as occasion shall require, to which We make no doubt the greater and better part of Our Privy Councell will concur, and whose Advice we are resolved to follow, as farre as it shall be agreeable to the good and welfare of the Kingdome.

Before that Declaration vouchsafes to insinuate any particulars, it is pleased to censure both Our Declaration and Answer, to be filled with harsh Censures,

Censure, and causelesse Charges upon the Parliament, (still misapplying the word Parliament to the Vote of both Houses) concerning which they resolve to give satisfaction to the Kingdome, since they find it very difficult to satisfie Us. If as in the usage of the word Parliament, they have left Us out of their thoughts; so by the word Kingdome, they intend to exclude all Our people, who are out of their walls: (for that's growne another phrase of the Time, the Vote of the major part of both houses, and sometimes of one, is now called, *The Resolution of the whole Kingdome*). We believe it may not be hard to give satisfaction to themselves; otherwise We are confident (and Our confidence proceeds from the uprightness of our owne Conscience) they will never be able so to sever the affections of us and our Kingdome, that what cannot be satisfaction to the one shall be to the other. Neither will the Stile of Humble, and Faithfull, and telling Us, That they will make Us a Great and Glorious King, in their Petitions and Remonstrances, so deceive Our good Subjects, that they will passe over the Reproaches, Threats, and Menaces they are stuffed with, which sure could not be more gently reprehended by Us, then by saying, Their expressions were different from the usuall Language to Princes, which that Declaration tels you, We had no occasion to say. But We believe, who ever looks over that Declaration presented to Us at *Newmarket*, to which Ours was an Answer, will find the Language throughout it, to be so usuall, that, before this Parliament, it could never be paralleld, whilst under pretence of justifying their fears, they give so much countenance to the discourse of the Rebels of *Ireland*, as if they had a mind Our good Subjects should give credit to it: Otherwise, being warranted by the same evidence, which they have since published, they would have as well declared, That those Rebels publicly threaten the rooting out the name of the English, and that they will have a King of their owne, and no longer be governed by Us, as that they say, That they do nothing but by Our Authority, and that they call themselves, *The Queenes Army*. And therefore we have great reason to complaine of the absence of Justice and Integrity in that declaration; besides the unsinness of other expressions. Neither did We mistake the Substance or Logick of the Message to Us at *Theobalds*, concerning the *Militia*, which was no other, and is stated to be no other (even by that Declaration which reproved Us) then a plain threat, That if We refused to joine with them, they would make a Law without Us: not that the Practice since that time been other, which will never be justified to the most ordinary (if not partiall) understandings, by the mere averting it to be according to the fundamental Lawes of this Kingdome, without giving any direction, that the most cunning and learned men in the Lawes, may be able to find those foundations. And We must appeale to all the World, Whether they might not with as much Justice, and by as much Law, have seized upon the estate of every Member of both Houses, who dissented from that pretended Ordinance: (which much the major part of the House of Peeres did two or

three severall times) as they have invaded that power of Ours over the *Militia*, because We (upon Reasons they have not so much as pretended to answer) refused to consent to that Proposition: And if no better effects then losse of Time and hinderance of the publike Affaires have beene found by Our Answers and Replies, let all good men judge, by whose default, and whose want of duty such effects have beene: For as our end (indeed onely end) in those Answers and Replies hath beene, The settlement and composition of publike Affaires, so We are assured, and most men do believe, That if that due Regard and Reverence had beene given to our Words, and that Consent and Obedience to our counsels, which we did expect, there had beene before this time a cheerful calmie upon the face of the whole Kingdome, every man enjoying his owne, with all possible Peace and Security that can be imagined, which surely those men do not desire, who (after all those Acts of Justice and Favour passed by Us this Parliament, all those affronts and sufferings endured and undergone by Us) thinke fit still to reproach us with Ship-Money, Coat and Conduct-Money, and other things so abundantly declared, as that Declaration it self: confesses in the generall Remonstrance of the State of the Kingdome, published in November last, which we wonder to find now avowed to be the Remonstrance of both Houses, and which We assure was presented to Us only by the House of Commons, & did never, and We are confident, in that time, could never have passed the House of Peeres; the Concurrence and Authority of which was not then thought necessary. Shall We believe those Reproaches to be the voyce of the Kingdome of England? That all Our loving Subjects eased, refreshed, strengthened, and abundantly satisfied with Our Acts of Grace and Favour towards them are willing to be involved in these unthankfull expressions? Wee must appeale to the Thankes and Acknowledgements published in the Petitions of most of the Counties of England; to the testimony and thanks Wee have received from both Houses of Parliament, how seasonable, how agreeable this usage of us is to Our merit, or their former expressions.

We have not at all swayed or departed from Our Resolution, or words in the beginning of this Parliament: We said, We were resolved to put Our Selfe freely and clearly upon the Love and Affection of Our English Subjects, and We say so still, as farre as concernes England: And We call Almighty God to witnesse all Our Complaints and Jealousies, which have never beene causelesse, nor of Our Houses of Parliament (but of some few Schismaticall; Factionous, and Ambitious Spirits, and upon grounds, as short time, Wee feare, will justifie the World) Our deniall of the *Militia*, Our absenting Our Selfe from *London*, have beene the effects of an upright and faithfull affection to Our English Subjects, that we may be able (through all the inconveniences We are compelled to warrle with) at last to preserve and restore their Religion, Lawes, and liberties unto them.

Since the proceeding against the Lord Kimbolton, and the five Members, Is
still

will looked upon, and so often pressed, as so great an advantage against Us, that no retraction made by Us, nor no Actions since that time committed against Us, and the Law of the Land, under pretence of vindication of Priviledge, can satisfie the Contrivers of that Declaration, but that they would have Our good Subjects believe, The Accusation of those five Members must be a plot for the breaking the necke of the Parliament, (a strange arrogance, if any of those Members had the penning of that Declaration) and that it is so often urged against Us, as if by that single casuall mistake of Ours (in forme onely) We had forfeited all Duty, Credit, and Allegiance from our people: We must without endeavouring to excuse that, which in truth was an error (Our going to the House of Commons) give Our people a cleare and full narration of the matter of Fact, assuring Our Selfe that Our good Subjects will not finde Our carriage in that businesse such as hath beene reported.

When We resolved upon such grounds, as when they shall be published will satisfie the world, That it was fit for Our owne Safety, and Honour, and the Peace of the Kingdome, to proceed against those persons, though We well know there was no degree of Priviledge in that case, yet (to shew Our desire of correspondency with the two Houses of Parliament) Wee chose, rather then to apprehend their persons by the ordinary Ministers of Justice (which, according to the Opinion and Practice of former times, We might have done) to command our Attorney Generall to acquaint our House of Peeres with Our intention, and the generall matters of Our charge (which was yet more particular then a meere Accusation) and to proceed accordingly, and at the same time sent a sworne Servant, a Sergeant at Armes to Our House of Commons, to acquaint them, That We did accuse, and intended to prosecute the five Members of that House for high Treason, and did require that their persons might be secured in custody: This we did, not onely to shew that we intended not to violate or invade their Priviledges, but to use more Ceremonie towards them, then We then conceived in Justice might be required of Us; and expected at least such an answer as might informe Us, if We were out of the way; But We received none at all; Onely in the instant, without offering any thing of their Priviledges to Our consideration, an Order was made (and the same night published in Print) That if any person whatsoever should offer to Arrest the person of any Member of that House, without first acquainting that House therewith, and receiving further order from that House, That it should bee lawfull for such Members, or any person to assist them, and to stand upon his or their Guard of Defence, and to make resistance according to the Protestation taken to defend the Priviledges of Parliament: and this was the first time that We heard the Protestation might be wrested to such a sense; or that in any Case (though of the most undoubted and unquestionable Priviledge) it might be lawfull for any Person to resist, and use violence against a publike Minister.

Minister of Justice, armed with lawfull Authority, though we well knew, that even such a Minister might be punished for executing such Authority. Upon viewing this Order We must confesse We were somewhat amazed, having never seene or heard of the like, though We had knowne Members of either House committed without so much Formality as We had used, and upon Crimes of a farre inferiour nature to those We had suggested, and having no course proposed to Us for Our proceeding, We were upon the matter onely told, That against those Persons We were not to proceed at all; That they were above Our reach, or the reach of the Law, it was not easie for Us to resolve what to doe: If We employed Our Ministers of Justice in the usuall way for their apprehension (who without doubt would not have refused to execute Our lawfull Commands) We saw what Resistance and Opposition was like to be made, which very probably might cost some blood; If Wee sat still and desisted upon this terrour, We should at the best have confessed Our owne want of power, and the weaknesse of the Law: In this straight We put on a sudden Resolution to try whether our owne presence, and a cleare discovery of Our Intentions (which haply might not have beene so well understood) could remove those doubts, and prevent those inconveniences which seemed to have beene threatned; and thereupon We resolved to goe in Our owne Person to our House of Commons, which We discovered not till the very minute of Our going, when We sent out that Our Servants, and such Gentlemen as were then in Our Court, should attend Us to *Westminster*; but giving them expresse command (as We have expressed in Our Answer to the Ordinance) that no Accidents or Provocation should draw them to any such Action as might imply a purpose of force in Us, and Our Selfe (requiring those of Our Trainee not to come within the doore) went into the House of Commons: the bare doing of which We did not then conceive would have beene thought more a breach of Priviledge, then if We had gone to the House of Peeres, and sent for them to come to Us, which is the usuall custome. We used the best expressions We could to assure them how far We were from any Intention of violating their Priviledges, That We intended to proceed Legally and Speedily against the persons We had accused, and desired therefore, if they were in the House, that they might be delivered to Us, or if absent, that such course might be taken for their forth-comming as might satisfie Our just demands; and so We departed, having no other purpose of force, if they had beene in the House, then We have before protested, before God, in Our Answer to the Ordinance. You have an account of Our part of this Story fully, let our people judge freely of it: What followed on their part, (though this Declaration tels you, it could not withdraw any part of their Reverence and Obedience from us; it may be any part of theirs it did not) We shall have too much cause hereafter to informe the world.

There

There will bee no end of the Discourse, and upbraiding Vs with evill Counsellors, if upon Our constant denial of knowing any, they will not vouchsafe to inform Vs of them; and after eight Months amasing the Kingdome with the expectation of a discovery of a Malignant Party, and of evill Coucellors, they will not at last name any, nor describe them: Let the Actions and Lives of men be examined, who have contrived, counselled, Actually consented to grievous and burden Our people, and if such be about Vs, or any against whom any notorious malicious Crime can be proved; if We shelter and protect any such, let Our injustice be published to the world; but till that be done particularly and manifestly. (for We shall never conclude any man upon a bare generall Vote of the Major part of either, or both Houses, till it be evident that major part must bee without passion or Affection) Wee must looke upon the charge this Declaration puts on Vs, of cherishing & countenancing a discontented Party of the Kingdom against them as a heavier and unjuste upon Our Iustice and Honour, then any we have, or can lay upon the Framers of that Declaration.

And now, to countenance those unhandsome Expressions, whereby usually they have implied Our connivance at, or want of Zeale against the Rebellion of *Ireland*. (so odious to all good men) they have found a new way of exprobration; That the Proclamation against those bloody Traytors, came not out till the beginning of January, though that Rebellion broke out in October, and then by speciall Command from Vs, but fourty Copies were appointed to be Printed. This well known where Wee were at that time when that Rebellion brake forth, in Scotland: That We immediately, from thence, recommended the care of that businesse to both Houses of Parliament here, after we had provided for all fitting supplies from Our Kingdome of Scotland, that after Our returne hither Wee observed all those forms for that Service, which Wee were advised to by Our Coucell of Ireland, or both Houses of Parliament here: And if no Proclamation issued out sooner (of which for the present Wee are not certaine, but thinke that others before that time were issued by Our directions) it was, because the Lords Iustices of the Kingdome desired them no sooner; and when they did, the number they desired was but twenty, which they advised might be signed by Vs; which Wee, for expedition of the Service commanded to bee printed (a circumstance not required by them) and therupon We Signed more of them then Our Iustices desired: All which was very well known to some Members of one or both Houses of Parliament, who have the more to answer, if they forbore to expresse it at the passing of this Declaration; and if they did expresse it, We have the greater reason to complaine, that so envious an Aspersions Would be cast on us to Our People, when they knew well how to answer their own Objection.

What that complaint is against the Parliament, put forth in Our Name, which is such an evidence and countenance to the Rebels, and speaks the same language of the Parliament, which the Rebels doe, We cannot understand. All Our An-

swers and Declarations have been, and are owned by Vs, and have beene attested under Our own hand; If any other had been published in Our Name, and without Our Authority, it would be easie for both Houses of Parliament to discover & apprehend the Authors: And Wee wish, that whosoever was trusted with the Drawing and penning of that Declaration, had no more Authority or cunning to impose upon, or deceive a major part of those Votes by which it passed, then any man hath to prevaile with Vs, to publish in Our Name any thing but the sense & Resolution of Our own Heart: Or that the contriver of that Declaration could with as good a Conscience call God to witnesse, that all His Countells and Endeavours have been free from all private aimes, Personall Respects, or Passions whatsoever, as We have done and doe, That Wee never had or knew of such Resolutions of bringing up the army to London. And since this new device is found out in stead of answering Our Reasons, or satisfying Our just demands, to blasse Our Declarations and answers, as if they were not Our own (a bold fencelesse imputation) We are sure that every answer and Declaration published by Vs, is much more Our own then any one of those bold, threatening, and reproachfull Petitions and Remonstrances are the acts of either, or of both Houses. And if the Penner of that Declaration had been carefull of the Trust reposed in him, hee would never have denied (and thereupon found fault with Our just Indignation) in the Text or Margent, that We had never been charged with the intention of any Force, and that in their whole Declaration, there is no word tending to such a reproach; The contrary whereof is so evident, that we are in expresse termes charged in that Declaration, That We sent them gracious Messages, when, with Our Privy, bringing up the army was in agitation. And even in this Declaration, they seek to make Our People beleieve some such thing, to bee proved in the Depositions now published, wherein We doubt not, they will as much fail, as they do in their Censure of that Petition shewed formerly to Vs by Captain *Legg*, and subscribed by Vs with *C. R.* which notwithstanding Our full and particular Narration of the substance of that Petition, the circumstances of Our seeing and approving it, this Declaration is pleased to say, was full of scandall to the Parliament, and might have proved dangerous to the whole Kingdome. If they have this dangerous Petition in their hands, We have no reason to beleieve any tenderesse to Vs-ward hath kept them from communicating it; If they have it not, we ought to have bin beleived: But that all good people may compute their other pretended dangers by their cleer understanding of this, the noyse whereof hath not been inferiour to any of the rest, We have recovered a true Copy of the very Petition We signed with *C. R.* which shal in fit time be published, and which, Wee hope, will open the eyes of Our good People.

Concerning Our warrant for Master *Termyns* passage, Our answer was true and full; But for his black Satin Suit, and white boots, Wee can give no account.

We

We complained in Our Declaration, and as often as we have occasion to mention Our returns and residence neere *London*. We shall complaine of the barbarous and seditious Tumults at *Westminster* and *White-hall*, which indeed were so full of scandall to Our Government, and danger to Our Person, that We shall never think of Our returne thither, till wee have Justice for what is past, and security for the time to come. And if there were so great a necessity, or desire of Our Returne as is pretended in all this time, upon so often pressing Our Desires, and upon causes so notorious, We should at least have procured some Order for the future. But that Declaration tells Vs, Wee are upon the matter mistaken, The resort of the Citizens to *Westminster*, was as lawfull as the resort of great numbers every day in the Terme to the ordinary Court of Justice. They knew no Tumults, Strange! Was the disorderly appearance of so many thousand people with Staves and Swords crying thorow the Streets, *Westminster Hall*, the passage betweene both Houses (inso much as the Members could hardly passe to and fro) No Bishops, Downe with the Bishops, no Tumults? What Member is there of either Houses that saw not those numbers, and heard not those cries? And yet lawfull Assemblies: Were not severall Members of either House Assaulted, threatned, and ill intreated? And yet no Tumults: why made the House of Peeres a Declaration, and sent it downe to the House of Commons, for the suppressing of Tumults, if there were no Tumults? And if there were any, why was not such a Declaration consented to, and published? When the attempts were so visible, and the threats so loud to pull downe the Abbey at *Westminster*, had not We cause to apprehend, That such people might continue their worke to *White-Hall*? Yet no Tumults. What a strange time are we in, That a few Impudent, Malitious (to give them no worse tearme) men should cast such a strange mist of error before the eyes of both Houses of Parliament, as that they either cannot, or will not see how manifestly they injure themselves, by maintaining these visible untruths: We say no more; By the help of God and the Law, We will have Justice for those Tumults.

From excepting (how weightily let every man judge) to what Wee have said, that Declaration proceeds to censure Vs for what We have not said, for the prudent Omissions in Our Answer: We forbore to say any thing of the words spoken at *Kensington*; or the Articles against our dearest Consort; and of the Accusation of the sixe Members: Of the last we had spoken often, and We thought enough of the other two; having never accused any (though God knowes what truth there might be in either) We have no reason to give any particular answer.

Wee doe not reckon Our Selfe bereaved of any part of Our Prerogative, which We are pleased, for a time, to part with by Bill; yet we must say, We expressed a

great trust in Our two Houses of Parliament, when we divested Our Selfe of the Power of dissolving the Parliament, which was a just, necessary, and proper Prerogative: But Wee are glad to heare their Resolution, that it shall not encourage them to doe any thing, which otherwise had not fit to have beene done: If it doe, it will be such a breach of Trust, God will require an account for at their hands.

For the *Militia*, we have said so much in it heretofore, and the poynt is so well understood by all men, that we will waste time no more in that dispute. We never said, There was no such thing as an Ordinance (though We know that they have been long dis-used) but that there was never any Ordinance, or can be without the Kings consent; and that is true: and the unnecessary President cited in the Declaration, doth not offer to prove the contrary: But enough of that, God and the Law must determine of that businesse.

Neither hath this Declaration given Vs any satisfaction, concerning the Votes of the fifteenth and sixteenth of March last, which we must declare, and appeale to all the world in the poynt, to bee the greatest violation of Our Priviledge, the Law of the Land, the liberty of the Subject, and the Right of Parliament that can be imagined. One of those votes is (and there needs no other to destroy the King and People) That when the Lords & Commons ('tis well the Commons are admitted to their part in Iudicature) shall declare what the Law of the Land is, the same must be assented to, and obeyed; that is the sence in few words. Where is every mans Property, every mans Liberty? If a major part of both Houses declare that the Law is, that the younger Brother shall inherite, what's become of all the families and Estates in the Kingdome? If they declare, That by the fundamentall Law of the Land, such a rash action. such an unadvised word ought to be punished by perpetuall imprisonment: Is not the Liberty of the Subject, *Durante bene placito*, remediless? That Declaration confesseth, They pretend not to a power of making new Lawes. That, without Vs, they cannot doe that: They need no such Power, if their Declaration can suspend this Statute from being obeyed or executed, and make this Order, which is no Statute, to be obeyed and executed. If they have Power to declare the Lord Digbys waiting on Vs to Hampton-Court, and thence visiting some Officers at Kingston, with a Coach and sixe Horses, to bee leavying of War, and High Treason: and Sir John Hothams defying us to Our face, keeping Our Towne, Fort, and Goods against Vs, by force of Armes, to bee an Act of Affection and Loyalty, What needs a power of making new Laws? Or is there such a thing as Law left? We desire our good subjects to mark the Reason and Consequence of these Votes, the progresse they have already made, and how infinite that progresse may be. First, *They vote the Kingdome is in imminent danger (it is above three moneth since they discerned it) from enemies*

enemies abroad, and a Popish and discontented Party at Home ; That is matter of Fact ; the Law followes : This Vote hath given them Authority by Law (the fundamentall Lawes of the Kingdome) to order and dispose of the Militia of the Kingdome , and with this power , and to prevent that Danger , to enter into Our Townes , seize upon Our Magazine , and by Force , keep both from Us : Is not this Our case ? First , they Vote Wee have an intension to leavy Warre against Our Parliament ; that's matter of fact : Then they declare , Such as shall assist Us , to bee guilty of high Treason ; that is the Law , and proved by two Statutes , themselves know to be repealed : No matter for that ; They declare it . Vpon this ground they exercise the Militia , and so actually doe that upon Us , which they have voted We intend to doe upon them : Who doth not see the confusion that must follow upon such a power of declaring ? If they should now Vote , That We did not write this Declaration , but that such a one did it , which is still matter of fact ; and then declare , That for so doing , he is an enemy to the Common-wealth ; what is become of the Law that man was borne to ? And if all their zeale for the defence of the Law , be but to defend that which they declare to be Law , their owne Votes , it will not be in their power to satisfie any man of their good intentions to the publike peace ; but such who are willing to relinquish his title to Magna Charta , and hold his life and fortune by a Vote of a major part of both Houses : In a word , Wee deny not but they may have a power to declare in a particular doubtfull case regularly brought before them what Law is ; but to make a generall Declaration , whereby the knowne Rule of the Law may be crossed or altered they have no power , nor can exercise any , without bringing the life and the liberty of the Subject to a lawlesse and arbitrary subjection .

We complained (and let the world judge the Justice and necessity of that Complaint) of the multitude of seditious Pamphlets and Sermons . And that Declaration tells Vs , They know We have wayes enough in our ordinary Courts of Justice to punish those : So We have to punish Tumults and Riots , and yet they will not serve Our turne to keep Our Towns , Our Forests , and Parks from violence . And it may be thought those Courts have still the power to punish , they may have lost the skill to define what Riots and Tumults are ; otherwise a Jury in Southwarke , legally impelled to examine a Riot there , would not have been superseded , and the Sheriffs enjoyned to proceed , by vertue of an Order of the House of Commons ; which it seems at that time , had the sole power of declaring . But it is no wonder , That they who could not see the Tumults , doe not consider the Pamphlets and Sermons , though the Author of the *Protestation protested* , be well known to be *Burton* (that infamous disturber of the Peace of this Church and State) and that he preached it at *Westminster* , in the hearing of divers Members of the House of Commons . But of such Pamphlets and seditious Preachers (divers whereof have beene recommended , if not imposed upon severall Parishes , by some Members of both Houses , by what authority We know not , Wee shall hereafter take a further account .

We

W^e confesse, We have little skill in the Lawes, and those that have had most, V^e now find are much to seeke : Yet V^e cannot understand or belceve, That every old nary Court, or any Court, hath power to raise what Guard they please, and under what Command they please; Neither can V^e imagine what dangerous effects they found by the Guard V^e appointed them, or (indeed) any the least occasion why they needed a Guard at all.

But of all the Imputations so causelessly and unjustly laid upon Us by that Declaration, Wee must wonder at that charge so apparantly and evidently untrue, That such are continually preferred and countenanced by Us, who are Friends or Favourers, or related unto the chiefe Authors and Actors of that Arbitrary power heretofore practised and complained of : And on the other side, That such as did oppose against it, are daily discountenanced and disgraced, We would know one Person that contributed to the Ills of those Times, or had dependance upon those that did, whom We doe, or lately have countenanced or preferred, Nay, We are confident (and We looke for no other at their hands) as they have bin alwaies most eminent Assertors of the publike Liberties, so if they found Us inclined to any thing not agreeable to Honour and Justice, they would leave Us to morrow : Whether different Persons have not, and doe not receive countenance elsewhere, and upon what grounds, let all men Judge; and whether We have not bin forward enough to honour and prefer those of the most contrary opinion, how little comfort soever We have had of those preferments; in bestowing of which, hereafter We shall be more guided by mens Actions then Opinions : And therefore we had good cause to bestow that admonition of Our owne) upon both Our Houses of Parliament, to take heed of inclining, under the specious shewes of Necessity and Danger, to the exercise of such an Arbitrary power they before complained of : The advice will doe no harm, and we shall be glad to see it followed.

And are all the specious Promises, and loud Professions, of making Us a Great and Glorious King, Offsetting a greater Revenue upon Us, then any of Our Ancestors have enjoyed, Of making Us to be Honoured at home, and Feared abroad, resolved into this, That they will be ready to settle Our Revenue, in an Honourable Proportion, when Wee shall put Our Selfe in such a Posture of Government that Our Subjects may be secure to enjoy Our just Protection for their Religion, Laws, &c. Liberties? What Posture of Government they intend We know not, nor can We imagine what Security Our good Subjects can desire for their Religion, Lawes, and Liberties, which We have not offered, or fully given. And is it satable to the duty and dignity of both Houses of Parliament to Answer Our particular Weighty Expressions of the Causes of Our Remove from *London* (so generally knowne to the Kingdome) with a Scoffe, That they hope We were driven from thence, not by Our owne Feares, but by the Feares of the Lord *Digby*, and his Retinue of Cavaliers? Sure the Penner of that Declaration inserted that ungrave and insolent Expression (as he hath done divers others) without the consent or examination of both Houses; who would not so lightly have departed from their former professions of duty to Us.

whether

Whether the way to a good Understanding betweene Us and Our people hath bin as zealously pressed by them, as it hath bin professed and desired by Us, will be easily discerned by those who observe, that We have left no publike Act undone on Our part, which, in the least degree, might be necessary to the Peace, Plenty, and Security of Our Subjects, and that they have not dispatched one Act which hath given the least evidence of their particular Affection and Kindnesse to Us: But on the contrary, have discountenanced and hindered the testimony other men would give to Us of their affections: Witnesse the stopping and keeping backe the Bill of Subsidies granted by the Clergy, almost a yeare since, which though Our personall wants are so notoriously knowne, they will not, to this time, passe: So not onely forbearing to supply Us themselves, but keeping the Love and Bounty of other men from Us, and afford no other Answers to all Our Desires, all Our Reasons (indeed not to be answered) then, That Wee must not make Our Understanding or Reason the Rule of Our government, but suffer Our Selve to be assisted (which VVee never denyed) by Our great Councell. VVee require no other Liberty to Our will, then the meanest of them doe (VVee wish they would alwaies use that Liberty) not to consent to any thing evidently contrary to Our Conscience and Understanding: and VVee have and shall alwaies give as much estimation and regard to the Advice and Counsell of both Our Houses of Parliament, as ever Prince hath done: But VVe shall never (and VVe hope Our people will never) account the contrivance of a few (Factious, Seditious persons, a Malignant Party, who would sacrifice the Common wealth to their owne fury and ambition) the wisdom of Parliament; and that the justifying and defending such persons (of whom, and of their particular sinister wayes to compassse their owne bad ends, VVe shall shortly informe the world) is not the way to serve Parliaments, but is the opposing and preferring the consideration of a few unworthy persons, before their Duty to their King, or their care of the Kingdome. They would have Us remember that Our Resolutions doe concerne Kingdoms, and therefore not to be moulded by Our owne Understanding: VVe well remember it; But We would have them remember, That when their Consultations endeavour to lessen the Office and Dignity of a King, they meddle with that which is not within their determinations, and of which We must give an account to God and Our other Kingdoms, and must maintaine with the sacrifice of Our life.

Lastly, that Declaration tells you of a present desperate and malicious Plot, the Malignant Party is now acting, under the plausible Notions of stirring Men up to a care of preserving the Kings Prerogative, maintaining the Discipline of the Church, upholding and continuing the Reverence and Solemnity of Gods Service, and encouraging Learning (indeed plausible and honourable Notions to act any thing upon) and that upon these grounds divers mutinous Petitions have bin framed in *London, Kent*, and other places. Upon what Grounds would these men have Petitions framed? Have so many Petitions (even against the Forme and Constitution

Constitution of the Kingdome, and the Lawes established) bin joyfully received and accepted? And shall Petitions framed upon these Grounds bee called Mutinous? Hath a multitude of meane, unknowne, inconsiderable, contemptable persons about the City and Suburbs of *London*, had liberty to Petition against the Government of the Chnrch, against the Booke of Common Prayer, against the Freedome and Priviledge of Parliament, and bin thanked for it: And shall it bee called Mutiny in the gravest and best Citizens of *London*, in the Gentry and Commonalty of *Kent*, to frame Petitions upon these grounds; and to desire to be governed by the knowne Lawes of the Land, not by Orders and votes of either, or both Houses? Can this be thought the wisdom and Justice of both Houses of Parliament? Is it not evidently the worke of a Faction within or without both Houses, who deceive the Trust reposed in them, and have now told Us what Mutiny is, to stir Men up to a Care of preserving Our Prerogative, maintaining the Discipline of the Church, upholding and continuing the Reverence and Solemnity of Gods Service, encouraging of Learning is Mutiny? Let Heaven and Earth, God and Man, judge betweene Us and these Men: And however such Petitions are, there, called Mutinous, and the Petitioners Threatned, Discouraged, Censured, and Imprisoned: If they bring such lawfull Petitions to Us, We will graciously receive them, and defend them and the Rights against what power soever, with the uttermost hazard of Our being.

We have bin the longer (to Our very great paine) in this Answer, that Wee might give the world satisfaction, even in the most triviall Particulars which have bin objected against Us: and that We may not bee againe reproached with any more prudent Omissions. If We have bin compelled to sharper Language then We affect, let it be considered, how vile, how insufferable Our Provocations have bin; And except to repell Force be to assault, and to give punctuall and necessary Answers to rough and insolent Demands, be to make Invectives, Wee are confident the world will accuse Us of too much Mildnesse; and all Our good Subjects will thinke, We are not well dealt with, and will judge of Us, and of their owne happinesse and security in Us by Our Actions; which Wee desire may no longer prosper, or have a blessing from God upon them and Us, then they shall bee directed to the glory of God, in the maintenance of the true Protestant Profession, to the preservation of the Property, and the Liberty of the Subject, in the observation of the Lawes, and the maintenance of the Rights and Freedome of Parliament, in the allowance and protection of all their just Priviledges.

FINIS.



